



The city with a heart

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



538011

Ms. Lolita Hill, Remedial Project Manager
US EPA – Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

December 17, 2004

RE: North Main Street Wellfield Botanical Garden Enhancement
Elkhart, Indiana

Dear Ms. Hill:

David L. Miller
Mayor

Public Works
& Utilities

Administration
1201 S. Nappanee Street
Elkhart, Indiana 46516
Phone: 574.293.2572
Fax: 574.293.7658

Customer Billing
921 N. Main Street
Elkhart, Indiana 46514
Phone: 574.264.4273
Fax: 574.206.8963

Board Of Public Works
229 S. Second Street
Elkhart, Indiana 46516
Phone: 574.294.5471
Fax: 574.293.7964

In 2001, the City of Elkhart's Parks & Recreation department, in conjunction with the City's Water Utility installed improvements at the North Main Street Wellfield site to accommodate a public park at the property. Those improvements included paved walkways, lighting and paved parking areas. As was required by the USEPA, none of these improvements interfered or impacted in any way the existing groundwater remediation facilities that were installed at the site under Superfund program in the mid 1980s. Since the opening of the park in 2001, Elkhart residents have enjoyed the natural beauty of this site in the midst of the urban setting.

This letter is to inform the USEPA that plans are moving forward to greatly enhance this park by converting portions of the existing property to botanical gardens. These gardens include additional walkways, additional lighting, and some additional parking areas. A visitor's center and maintenance shop will also be constructed on the site's interior to service the botanical gardens. As with the initial park, these garden plots and support facilities will *not* interfere or impact the remediation facilities or any of the existing water utility infrastructure in *any* way. In fact, the Water Utility will be providing additional security for all the water production, treatment and storage facilities in conjunction with these enhancements primarily to respond to federal and state requirements for securing water utility appurtenances under the Homeland Security Act. These enhancements will provide increased awareness and appreciation for our water and soil environments to the Elkhart public.

Sincerely yours,
City of Elkhart Public Works & Utilities

Art K. Umble, Ph.D., P.E., DEE
Manager of Water & Wastewater Operations

cc: Eric Horvath, P.E., Director of Public Works & Utilities